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The Pastor Speaks

The Promises of God

Recently, this pastor has been doing a little work, in the study and in the pulpit on the promises of God. We are told in II Peter 1:4, "It is through him (Jesus Christ) that God's greatest and most precious promises have become available to us men." (J. B. Phillips translation). God has given us many rich and precious promies in the Holy Scriptures. These promises are true and dependabe because God is faithful. He is able, and His promises cannot fail. We like the hymn, "Standing on the promises of Christ, my King. Through Eternal Ages let His praises ring: Glory in the highest I will shout and sing, standing on the promises of God." Robert P. Lindemann has reminded us that, in order to take advantage of these wonderful promises of God, we have to do four things. FIRST, we must read the Scriptures in order to know God's promises. There is no way to know what God says except to read His word! SECOND, we must believe these promises. We must take God at His word about what He says. This we call faith. Without faith it is impossible to please Him, believe what He says in His Word! THIRDLY, we must read the promises carefully to discover whether God has attached a special condition that must be fulfilled before His blessings can come. Often, some condition must be met before God can bless us with promises to enjoy. God has done His part, we must seek to do our part. For example, he says that we must **first** seek the Kingdom of God before other needs can be met in our lives (Luke 12:31)! FOURTH, We must bear in mind that God's promises are for those who believe in Jesus Christ. New Testament promises are founded on grace, and grace has only one channel, Jesus Christ. The Law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ." (John 1:17) Only those who stand in this special relationship of faith in Christ have the right to make these promises their very own. God's promises are signed, sealed, and guaranteed to us through the life, death, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Stand on these precious and very great promises of God.

Henry E. Riley, Jr., Pastor
Memorial United Methodist Church
Appomattox, Va.

The Sunday School Lesson

Comments by Herbert C. Bradshaw

Lesson for September 7, 1975

THE IMAGE OF GOD
Scripture: Genesis 1:2

Then the Lord God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being. Genesis 2:7

Starting this week, International Sunday School lesson students begin a new series, which treats an age-old human activity, man's quest for identity. For certainly as long as they have left any record of human thought, and no doubt long before that, people have speculated on the reason for human existence. "Who am I? is interwoven with "Why am I here?" or simply "Why am I?" These questions are being asked today with an intensity as if this generation were the first to raise them.

In ancient Greece, where the mind of man unaided by divine revelation soared to its loftiest heights and delved to its profoundest depths, philosophers -- lovers of wisdom -- search for answers. They gave to man a unique dignity, perceiving in the mortal body an immortal spark which they called soul. One of the greatest of that remarkable company, Socrates, taught that a person's prime responsibility is to "Know thyself" and to that quest for self-knowledge he must give the priority.

The ancient Hebrew, too, sought answers to these absorbing questions, but in his search he was aided by divine revelation. God told him who man is: a creature made in God's image or likeness. God told him why man is: to have fellowship with his Creator and to care for his Creator's creation, the world. In his quest for identity, the ancient Hebrew, aided by divine revelation, found God the author of all life who brought all that is into being by His creative word.

The Scriptural accounts of man put him in a perspective he must understand if he is to know who he is and why he is. He belongs to God's creation, but with a certain distinctiveness which sets him apart from the rest of it. Notice, in the Genesis account of creation, a distinction between the origin of other things and man's origin: "God said, 'Let there be light . . . let there be a firmament . . . let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear . . . let the earth put forth vegetation . . . let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens . . . let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the heavens . . . let the earth bring forth living creatures . . .' These came into being by the fiat, the "let be made," the creative word of God. In man's case, "God said, 'Let us make man in our image, after our likeness . . .' Man is God's creative handiwork, made after His likeness.

But God has given to man a higher dignity than He has given to the rest of His creation, this is no occasion for man to be presumptuous (as he so often is). That "God formed man of dust from the ground" identifies man with all the rest of creation. At the same time, though, God "breathed into his nostrils the breath of life," making him, as Psalm 8 puts it, "little less than God" and in making him in God's image "dost crown him with glory and honor."

Man is identified with the material creation because his body shares with it the common basic structure of matter. Each element in it, as each of the elements which make up the material universe, is structured of atoms each of which in turn consists of a positively charged nucleous of protons and neutrons surrounded by electrons.

Man differs from the rest of creation because he alone in it is made in the image and likeness of God. This distinction provides the basis for man's fellowship with God, but it does not make him God or even as God. There is a difference. Image indicates a representation, not the real thing, as the images of pagan deities represented them and were considered indications of their presence. So man in the image of God represents God and indicates His presence in the world. Thus God gives man a unique dignity and function. God made man in His image that He might be seen in the world and His presence made known to the world. It is a high responsibility with which God has crowned man.

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ROCKS CHURCH TO HOLD HOMECOMING SEPT. 7

Rocks Baptist Church, Pamplin has planned a homecoming celebration for Sept. 7, 1975 beginning at the 11:00 a.m. worship hour.

Following the morning worship, there will be a dinner served on the grounds. All members, former members and friends are invited to join in the fellowship and a picnic basket.

In the afternoon, there will be a program of music by THE REVELATION QUARTET.

PAY ROLL ENVELOPES Times-Virginian, Phone 352-8215.

Evergreen

Mr. and Mrs. Donald Hamilton and daughter, of Newport News, spent the week end with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. K. Hamilton.

Mr. and Mrs. Maynard Beane, of Richmond, visited her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jay Clapp last week.

Rev. and Mrs. Robert Harris, of Nathalie, Va., spent the week end with his mother, Mrs. R. E. Harris.

Mrs. Lillie Jennings, of Va. Beach, spent last week with Mrs. Larkin Harvey.

Howard Cralle, Jr. and son, H. B., of Suffolk, Va., spent several days last week with Mrs. Christine Cralle.

Rev. and Mrs. Edmond Terry and grandson, Jim Bob, spent last week in Indiana, visiting relatives.

Mrs. Mary Alice Staples, Mrs. Barbara McLaughlin and daughter, Mary Helen returned home Monday after a visit with friends in North Carolina.

Mrs. Gladys Harvey spent Sudnay with Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Richardson and family at Pamplin.

Mr. and Mrs. Garland Mayberry, Mr. and Mrs. Wiley Richardson of Lynchburg and Mrs. Jessie Carwile of Appomattox, were dinner guests of Mrs. Moit Harvey Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Jimmie Harvey, of Chester, Va., spent the week end with Mrs. Larkin Harvey.

Mrs. Minnie Massey, of Newport News, and Mr. Jesse Chocklett of Brookneal, were visiting Mr. and Mrs. Z. E. Cheatham during the Holiday week end.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Wooldridge and Peggy visited Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Wooldridge and family, of Troy, Va., Friday night.

Orientation At American Legion Post 16

Under the sponsorship of the Veterans Affairs Office of Central Va. Community College and the Lynchburg Area Military Retirees Association, Mr. John Cofers, CHAMPUS Representative from Richmond will present a program to military retirees, disabled veterans, active military duty personnel, and their dependents in the Central Virginia Area.

The orientation will be held at The American Legion Post 16, 1301 Greenview Dr., off 460 west, on Sun., Sept. 7, at 1:30 p.m. All those concerned are invited to attend. The presentation will include a question and answer period. This conference offers an excellent opportunity to become familiar with the latest changes of the CHAM PUS PROGRAM.

For futher information call Allen Carmody - 352-5566.

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7.00-15	6PR TT	$57.00	$2.60
7.50-16	6PR TT	$58.00	$2.77
6.70-15	6PR TL	$59.00	$2.73
8.00-16.5	6PR TL	$84.00	$3.39

Traction Sure-Grip $29
SIZE 6.00-16 6PR tube type, Size 32.19 Fed. Ex. Tax and old tire

Size	Ply Rating	Price	Plus F.E.T. & old tire
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Tops News

By Barbara Mayberry

Believe it or not, in 1883, the average weight of adult women was 118 pounds! Today it has increased to 140 pounds. In 1878, the average weight of men in their 40's was 140 pounds. Today, it is 173 pounds.

Obviously American men and women are doing something wrong. Perhaps they are getting less exercise, are overeating because it is now easier to obtain a wide variety of "trash" foods, or maybe they just don't understand that overweight is a leading cause of problems, both physical and mental.

I believe another problem is a lack of understanding concerning the proper methods of cooking "thin". No one can lose weight, or even maintain their present weight, if they continue preparing old-fasioned, calorie-laden meals. A 3 ounce portion of meat is plenty for a meal, but how many oif us would consider this a starvation serving? A baked potato is fine, but not when you down it in gobs of high-calorie butter or heaping spoonfuls of sour cream. A crisp salad sounds very calorie conscious, until you notice that it has been smothered with salad dressing - a single tablespoon of Thousand Island Dressing contains 60 calories! Think of all the calories that this sample meal contains, and then consider that I haven't even added dessert, beverages, rolls or biscuits with butter, or any other buttered vegetables that might be included in the typical meal to round it out! It's all these "extra" that contribute to rounding out the figure!

At the August 25 meeting, Leader Doris Nash opened the meeting. Louise Saunders then gave a well-received program on the importance of exercise for the dieter, and, also, tips on how to stay on a diet. Louise described some simple exercises that could be done at odd times during the day. Any diet, besides being low - calorie, should also be well-balanced, stated Louise, with snacks and sweets severely restricted. For the future, other members, including Kathleen Garlick, will prepare and present programs. However, it is strictly up to the member whether or not they wish to have a program; it is not required.

From the Reader's Digest There is a certain inconsistency in the way we insist that the butcher's scale be strictly honest, but have no objection if the bathroom scale fools around a bit!

Tops Tip for the Week is to try poaching eggs in water flavored with tarragon vinegar for a subtle, delicate taste.

The next **TOPS meeting will take place on Sept. 8, at the** Plaza Farmer's National Bank, with weighing-in beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Tops Throught for the Week is how is possible for a two-pound box of candy to make you gain five pounds?

Estate Auction

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ept. 6, 1975 at 10:00 A. M.

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ther items too numerous to mention

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ow to attend this valuable sale.
he sale will be held on Saturday, Sept. 13 at.

For further information contact:
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